(b) In keeping with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 establishment of Consular relations between two States takes place by mutual consent. It is for the foreign Governments desirous of opening a Consular Post/Office, to convey their intentions to the receiving State through diplomatic channels. While examining such requests, inter alia the principle of reciprocity is normally observed.

Role of ICCR in the Exhibition in Austria

2795. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the role played by the ICCR in the 'Magic Hands' exhibition organised at Schallaburg Castle in Austria;

(b) who were the other collaborators of the exhibition and what assistance was rendered by ICCR to them;

(c) what other support and funds were given by ICCR;

(d) who are the officers of ICCR or the Indian mission or Ministry who visited the exhibition; and

(e) whether Government are aware that most of the master craftsmen have returned from the exhibition dissatisfied, and if so, what are the reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) An exhibition titled Magic Hands is being held in Austria since April, 1993 at the International Exhibition Centre, Schallaburg Castle. The exhibition has been organised by ICCR in collaboration with Crafts Museum, New Delhi and the Department of Culture of the Government of Lower Austria.

The exhibition has been organised on cost sharing basis. Four batches of Indian craftsmen are to visit Austria of which two batches would be financed by ICCR packing, freight and insurance for sector Delhi-Schallaburg Castle has been borne by the Austrian side. Return costs on packing, freight will be borne by ICCR. Items for permanent display at Schallaburg Castle have been made by the craftsmen in India at the expense of the Austrian side and transported at their expense.

The Commissioner of the exhibition from the Indian side is Dr. Jyotindra Jain, Senior Director, Crafts Museum, New Delhi and from the Austrian side Mr. Ramesh Biswas an Indian resident in Austria.

(d) On behalf of ICCR Dr. Jyotindra Jain, Senior Director, Crafts Museum travelled to Austria as Commissioner of the Exhibition on April, 1993 to make final arrangements for the inauguration.

Shri Vasant Sathe, President, ICCR alongwith his Private Secretary were present at the inauguration of the exhibition in Austria at the invitation of the Government of Lower Austria. Director General, ICCR also visited the exhibition in April, 1993. From the Indian Embassy the Ambassador of India was present at the inauguration.

(e) ICCR has not received any complaint from the craftsmen on their return from Austria.

Posts Lying Vacant in Central Passport Offices in the Country

2796. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the sanctioned strength, occupancy and vacancy in the substantive grade of Passport Officer, Assistant Passport Officer, Public Relation Officer and Superintendents in the Central Passport Organisations;

(b) what is the deputation quota in each of the above grades and actual occupancy of deputationists in each grade;

(c) since how long posts in each grade have been lying vacant and how vacancies are proposed to be filled up on regular basis;

(d) whether in view of huge pendency and deterioration in waiting time to get passports, the Government will consider in public interests to take officers from other Ministries/Departments of the government of India on deputation against vacant posts atleast till CPO cadre officers with required seniority become eligible; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The information is enclosed in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Vacancies have been occuring in different grades of the Central Passport Organisation from time to time on account of retirement

etc. These vacancies are to be filled through promotion of eligible officers and deputation where provided under the rules.

(d) and (e) Government have taken a number of measures to reduce the pendency and the waiting time for issue of passports in various Passport Offices. These steps *inter alia* include stabilisation of the supply of passport booklets; introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme; creation of 400 additional posts; etc. Deputation to the Central Passport Organisation is governed by the rules of the Organisation.

Statement

Sl. No.	Post	Sanctioned Strength			Occupancy			Vacancy		
		Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total	Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total	Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total
1.	Passport Officer	8	8	16	1	7	8	7	1	8
2.	Assistant Passport Officer	15	10	25	1	5	6	14	5	19
3.	Public Relations Officer	48	—	48	18	1	19	30	+1	29
4.	Superintendent	61	—	61	74	1	75	+13	+1	+14

Hiring of Publicity Firm in USA to Handle Indian Mission's Public Relation

2797. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hire a publicity firm in USA to handle the Indian Mission's public relations;

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) what are the functions of the publicity firm defined by the Government;

(d) what are the conditions, if any, laid down by Government under which the publicity firm is supposed to function; and

(e) what is the monthly expenditure involved in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government propose to hire a legal firm.

(b) The final decision in this regard will depend on the outcome of negotiations with the several firms which have been shortlisted.

(c) The functions of the firm will include provision of legal assistance to our Mission and Posts in the USA and facilitation in projecting India's viewpoint on a wide range of issues.

(d) and (e) Detailed terms and conditions including those relating to expenditure, are currently under negotiation.

Restriction on Unmarried Persons for Entry into Britain, U. S. and Canada

2798. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Great Britain, U. S. and Canada have issued instructions to their diplomatic missions abroad not to issue any entry permit to any unmarried individuals into their countries;

(b) whether genuine students and scholars are likely to be affected by this decision of these countries; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any internal instructions issued by the Governments of U. K, U. S. A. and Canada to their Missions in India to this effect.

(b) While there has been tightening of